

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 087649
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA/PMU:MEILAND:GMD
APPROVED BY EA/RA-PMU:MEILAND
-----006323 060756Z /23

R 052132Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 087649

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MIL, MARR, PINR, SN

SUBJECT: P-3 STAGING FLIGHTS FROM SINGAPORE

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
QUOTE STATE 037664
P R 132206Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
SUBJECT: P-3 STAGING FLIGHTS FROM SINGAPORE
REF: SINGAPORE 612

1. DURING VISIT OF PM LEE IN OCTOBER 1977, USG AND GOS
AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON STAGING P-3 ORION FLIGHTS THROUGH
SINGAPORE, PRIMARILY TO IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET
ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. PM LEE NOTED THAT HIS
AGREEMENT WAS CONTINGENT ON ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH
CHAIRMEN OF CONGRESSIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.
THE REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS (AS WELL AS CONSULTATIONS WITH
THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES) HAVE BEEN
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COMPLETED.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD ACCORDINGLY
INFORM PM LEE OF THE SUCCESSFUL CONSULTATIONS AND OUR

INTENT TO CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENT. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS
FOR THE TEXT OF A PROPOSED NOTE FROM THE EMBASSY TO PM

LEE ARE CONTAINED BEGINNING PARA 3 BELOW. WE BELIEVE A FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE IS PROBABLY MORE SUITABLE FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT AS IT REPRESENTS THE USG. HOWEVER, IF YOU AND PM LEE PREFER, YOU MAY PROVIDE SAME TEXT IN LETTER SIGNED BY ASST. SECRETARY HOLBROOKE (POSSIBLY UNDER COVER OF TRANSMITTAL NOTE). IN THAT CASE, WE WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY POUCH SIGNED ORIGINAL. WE CONSIDER PRESENTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE NOTE (OR LETTER) AS AUTHORITY TO BEGIN COORDINATION OF OPERATIONS WITH GOS.

3. BEGIN TEXT: DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, TO THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER, 1977, HE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, JIMMY CARTER, DISCUSSED POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. DURING THE CONVERSATION, THERE WAS MUTUAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE ADVISABILITY OF STAGING P-3 ORION AIRCRAFT FROM SINGAPORE, PRIMARILY TO MAINTAIN MORE EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AT THE PROSPECT OF A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONSULT IN ADVANCE ON THIS MATTER WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO
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ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS. EMB. IS THUS PLEASED TO INFORM GOS THAT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES DEALING WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ALSO THOSE DEALING WITH THE ARMED SERVICES.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLANS AN INITIAL EFFORT OF ABOUT FOUR MARITIME AIR PATROL FLIGHTS PER MONTH THROUGH SINGAPORE ENROUTE TO AND FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT THE FREQUENCY MIGHT PERHAPS BE EXPANDED AT A LATER DATE TO 8-12 FLIGHTS PER MONTH. THE FLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE AN OVERNIGHT CREW REST AND A NEED FOR SUPPORT BY CONTRACT SERVICES. SOME MINOR ASSISTANCE MAY ALSO BE REQUESTED FROM THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO STATION U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SINGAPORE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE FLIGHTS.

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENCING OPERATIONS AS SOON AS SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE

COMPLETED. THE EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTS THAT AN

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THIS NOTE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WILL THEN BE HELD BETWEEN
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE FLIGHTS. END TEXT.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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TAGS: MILI, MARR, PINR, SN, US, UR
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